

V. REMARKS

Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 USC 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Loose et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0087690) in view of Train (U.S. Patent No. 5,683,295) and Okada (U.S. Patent No. 6,620,044). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Loose teaches a spinning reel slot machine that includes a plurality of mechanical rotatable reels and a video display. The plurality of mechanical rotatable reels, in response to a wager, are rotated and stopped to randomly place symbols on the reels in visual association with a display area. A video display provides a video image superimposed upon the reels. The video display is a flat panel transmissive display positioned in front of the reels. The transmissive display is a liquid crystal display.

Train discloses an electronic bingo game system with automatic scoring that includes a first group of selectors. Each selector is arranged in a particular location on the card in an ordered matrix representing numbers of a bingo card face in a mark every time configuration. Each selector is manually selectable for producing, when actuated, an output corresponding to the location in the matrix of the selected one of the numbers. A plurality of matrices of game cards are provided which are in electrical communication with the control faces so that each time a number on a control face is actuated, a corresponding number on one of the controlled or play faces is actuated. Logic means is responsive to the first group of actuators on the control faces for providing an output when a win is detected and a display provides a visual indication on the game playing device upon such occurrence.

Claim 1, as amended, is directed to a gaming machine that includes game start instruction means for instructing a start of a game, determination means for determining symbols to be stopped and whether or not a combination is won based on the symbols determined corresponding to a game start instruction command from the game start instruction means, game result display means for displaying a result

concerning with the game determined by the determination means and beneficial state generating means for generating a beneficial state for a player when a specific game result with a winning symbol combination is displayed on the game result display means. Claim 1 recites that the game result display means includes first display means and second display means arranged at a more front side than a display area of the first display means when seen from a front side of the gaming machine and the second display means has a plurality of symbol display areas with each symbol display area capable of transmittably displaying the specific game result displayed on the first display means therethrough by changing light transmittance rate of the symbol display area so as to become high. Also, claim 1 recites that display control means is provided with the display control means controlling the second display means so as to display game information in an area including the symbol display area by changing the light transmittance rate of the symbol display area so as to become low after the game is initiated and before the specific game result is displayed on the first display means.

Furthermore, claim 1 recites that the game result display means displays a losing result in a losing mode or at least one of a normal winning result and an enhanced winning result in a winning mode such that:

(1) in the losing mode, the display control means causes the second display means to show losing result symbols of the first display means by illuminating the plurality of symbol display areas of the second display means at the high light transmittance rate; or

(2) in the winning mode, the display control means first causes the second display means to show normal winning result symbols of the first display means by illuminating a selected one of the plurality of symbol display areas having the normal winning result symbols and superimposing, at least in part, game information thereon at the low light transmittance rate while simultaneously inhibiting view of remaining ones of the plurality of symbol display areas by illuminating the same at the low light transmittance rate and, thereafter, the display control means causes the second

display means to show either enhanced winning result symbols of the first display means by illuminating the remaining ones of the plurality of symbol display areas at the high light transmittance rate or random symbols by illuminating the remaining ones of the plurality of symbol display areas at the high light transmittance rate.

It is respectfully submitted that none of the applied art, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests the features of claim 1 as amended. Specifically, it is respectfully submitted that the applied art, alone or in combination, fails to teach or suggest that the first display means displays a losing result in a losing mode or at least one of a normal winning result and an enhanced winning result in a winning mode as now recited in claim 1 and discussed immediately above. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art could not combine the features of the applied art to arrive at the claimed invention because the applied art is devoid of all the features of the claimed invention. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is allowable over the applied art.

Claims 2, 5 and 6 depend from claim 1 and includes all of the features of claim 1. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reason claim 1 is allowable as well as for the features they recite.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 21-26 are rejected under 35 USC 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Loose in view of Okada. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 21, as amended, is directed to a gaming machine that includes a first display device, a second display device arranged at a more front side than the first display device when seen from a front side of the gaming machine, the second display device including a plurality of symbol display areas with each symbol display area capable of transmittably displaying symbols on the first display device therethrough and a processor in communication with the first display device and the second display device. Claim 21 recites that the processor operates to: (a) enable a player to initiate a game by making a bet, (b) determine symbols to be displayed on

the first display device, (c) control the second display device so as to transmittably display the symbols on the first display device therethrough by changing light transmittance rate of the symbol display area so as to become high and to display game information in the symbol display area by changing the light transmittance rate of the symbol display area so as to become low, the game information predicting the winning symbol combination and (d) provide an award corresponding to the winning symbol combination.

Furthermore, claim 21 recites that the first display device displays a losing result in a losing mode or at least one of a normal winning result and an enhanced winning result in a winning mode such that:

(1) in the losing mode, the first display device displays losing result symbols by illuminating the plurality of symbol display areas of the second display device at the high light transmittance rate; or

(2) in the winning mode, the second display device displays normal winning result symbols of the first display device by illuminating a selected one of the plurality of symbol display areas having the normal winning result symbols and superimposing, at least in part, game information thereon at the low light transmittance rate while simultaneously inhibiting view of remaining ones of the plurality of symbol display areas by illuminating the same at the low light transmittance rate and, thereafter, the second display device displays either enhanced winning result symbols of the first display device by illuminating the remaining ones of the plurality of symbol display areas at the high light transmittance rate or random symbols by illuminating the remaining ones of the plurality of symbol display areas at the high light transmittance rate.

It is respectfully submitted that none of the applied art, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests the features of claim 21 as amended. Specifically, it is respectfully submitted that the applied art, alone or in combination, fails to teach or suggest that the first display device displays a losing result in a losing mode or at least one of a normal winning result and an enhanced winning result in a winning

mode as now recited in claim 21 and discussed immediately above. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art could not combine the features of the applied art to arrive at the claimed invention because the applied art is devoid of all the features of the claimed invention. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that claim 21 is allowable over the applied art.

Claims 22-26 depend from claim 21 and includes all of the features of claim 21. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reason claim 21 is allowable as well as for the features they recite.

Support for the newly-added claim features of claim 1 and 21 are found in Figure 10 as well as in the specification commencing on page 25, in paragraphs [0063]-[0069].

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

It is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are believed to be in condition for allowance over the prior art of record. Therefore, this Amendment is believed to be a complete response to the outstanding Office Action. Further, Applicants assert that there are also reasons other than those set forth above why the pending claims are patentable. Applicants hereby reserve the right to set forth further arguments and remarks supporting the patentability of their claims, including the separate patentability of the dependent claims not explicitly addressed herein, in future papers.

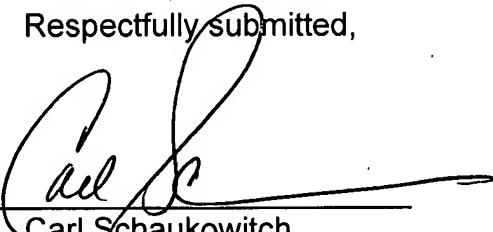
In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper or if a Petition for Extension of Time is required for timely acceptance of the same,

the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-0013 for any such fees and Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure(s): Amendment Transmittal
 Request for Continued Examination

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